

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN NOVEMBER 2005

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in November of 52,300 metric tons (t) was about 19% less than that in October and about 8% less than that in November 2004, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Estimated smelter production of 17,700 t of refined zinc was about 10% more than that in October and about 25% less than that in November 2004. Apparent consumption of 67,300 t of zinc was about 13% higher than that in October and 30% lower than that in November 2004.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price for North American Special High Grade zinc increased to 78.47 cents per pound in November. The price was 8% (5.81 cents per pound) higher than in October and 43% (23.66 cents per pound) higher than in November 2004. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price increased to \$1,610.61 per metric ton of zinc, an 8% increase compared with the October price, and 47% higher than that in November 2004. During November, global LME zinc stocks dropped by 46,550 t to 437,800 t.

Korea Zinc Co. has announced it will be closing its Big River zinc smelter at Sauget, IL, in February. The smelter has a 90,000-metric-ton-per-year zinc production capacity. In a related story, there was confirmation Asarco Incorporated's

Tennessee zinc mines would not reopen. Asarco is under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, and these mines produced low-iron-content zinc concentrates that were needed for the Big River smelter to operate (CRU International Ltd., 2005).

The International Lead Zinc Study Group predicted world zinc mine production to finish the year 2005 up by 3.5% compared with that of 2004, and further predicted mine production in 2006 would be up by another 4.2% (CRU International Ltd., 2005).

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in November, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was 2,830 t (approximately 3,120 short tons), with an approximate value of \$4.70 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005).

References Cited

- CRU International Ltd., 2005, CRU Monitor—Lead & Zinc Concentrates: CRU International Ltd., December, 12 p.
Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005, Stockpile announces zinc BOA sales for November 2005: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, December 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004	2005			
	January- December	September	October	November	January- November
Production:					
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	739,000	64,200	66,800	54,300	684,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	713,000	61,800	64,400	52,300	659,000
Smelter, refined zinc	320,000	17,900 ^e	16,100 ^e	17,700 ^e	179,000 ^e
Consumption:					
Refined zinc, reported	421,000	34,800	34,700	33,100	371,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	727	61	61	61	666
Zinc-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	191,000	15,900	15,900	15,900	175,000
Copper-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	176,000	14,700	14,700	14,700	161,000
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	1,430	120	120	120	1,320
Total ^e	790,000	65,500	65,400	63,800	709,000
Apparent consumption, metal ²	1,160,000	65,700	59,300	67,300	863,000 ³
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:					
Producer ⁴	XX	7,470 ^e	7,020 ^e	9,590 ^e	XX
Consumer ⁵	XX	56,400	55,900	54,500	XX
Merchant	XX	10,200	10,200	10,200	XX
Total	XX	74,100	73,200	74,400	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	31,500	3,710	3,010	2,830	20,100
Imports for consumption:					
Refined (slab) zinc	812,000	42,300	46,400	NA	548,000 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	103,000	12,300	7,670	NA	92,000 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	231,000	556	16,700	NA	132,000 ⁶
Exports:					
Refined (slab) zinc	3,300	22	36	NA	761 ⁶
Oxide (gross weight)	14,400	1,680	1,370	NA	12,300 ⁶
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	745,000	199,000	50,500	NA	726,000 ⁶
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	53,900	5,350	5,070	NA	46,000 ⁶
Price:					
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	\$1,047.35	\$1,397.08	\$1,487.91	\$1,610.61	\$1,341.37
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	52.47	67.89	72.66	78.47	65.24

^eEstimated. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

³Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

⁴Data from U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

⁵Includes an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁶Includes data through October only.

TABLE 2
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons)

Month	Beginning stocks ²	Production	Shipments	Ending stocks ²
2004:				
November	2,850	17,700	16,700	3,850
December	3,850	21,200	20,100	5,010
January-December	XX	212,000	212,000	XX
2005:				
January	5,010	14,700	15,500	4,290
February	4,290	15,600	15,100	4,820
March	4,820	18,500	17,500	5,790
April	5,790	16,400	15,300	6,810
May	6,810	15,900	16,400	6,360
June	6,360	12,500	10,800	8,070
July	8,070	17,700 ^e	17,300 ^e	8,390 ^e
August	8,390 ^e	16,200 ^e	16,000 ^e	8,580 ^e
September	8,580 ^e	17,900 ^e	17,400 ^e	9,040 ^e
October	9,040 ^e	16,100 ^e	16,600 ^e	8,590 ^e
November	8,590 ^e	17,700 ^e	16,700 ^e	9,590 ^e
January-November	XX	179,000 ^e	175,000 ^e	XX

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes stocks held at locations other than smelters.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC
ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2004	2005			
	January- December	September	October	November ²	January- November ²
Galvanizing:					
Sheet and strip	477,000	27,800	25,100	28,300	359,000
Other	167,000	7,200	6,000	8,000	112,000
Total	644,000	35,000	31,100	36,200	471,000
Brass and bronze	188,000	10,600	9,900	10,100	135,000
Zinc-base alloy	244,000	14,400	12,800	15,000	187,000
Other uses ³	85,800	5,700	5,400	5,900	70,600
Grand total	1,160,000	65,700	59,300	67,300	863,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

³Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, castings, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4
AVERAGE ZINC PRICES¹

Period	North American ¢/lb.	LME ² cash	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
2004:			
November	54.81	49.68	1,095.18
December	58.53	53.52	1,179.83
January-December	52.47	47.51	1,047.35
2005:			
January	61.54	56.51	1,245.81
February	64.49	60.14	1,325.81
March	66.49	62.47	1,377.33
April	63.03	58.96	1,299.81
May	60.46	56.39	1,243.23
June	61.73	57.85	1,275.33
July	57.96	54.16	1,194.08
August	62.94	58.88	1,298.05
September	67.89	63.37	1,397.08
October	72.66	67.49	1,487.91
November	78.47	73.06	1,610.61
January-November	65.24	60.84	1,341.37

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2004		2005 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	October		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	3,300	\$5,330	36	\$58	761	\$1,450
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	745,000	413,000	50,500	43,900	726,000	445,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	53,900	48,300	5,070	6,230	46,000	49,900
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	7,640	13,500	685	1,360	7,570	15,000
Oxide (gross weight)	14,400	19,800	1,370	1,970	12,300	19,500
Chloride (gross weight)	1,870	2,200	81	103	1,590	1,980
Sulfate (gross weight)	3,060	1,860	215	153	2,320	1,520
Compounds, other (gross weight)	194	711	67	81	932	781

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for November 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

Material	2004		2005 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	October		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	812,000	\$888,000	46,400	\$64,700	548,000	\$713,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	231,000	98,700	16,700	14,500	132,000	94,400
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	10,800	7,740	1,060	1,000	6,980	6,160
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	24,800	40,200	2,340	5,040	19,600	37,600
Oxide (gross weight)	103,000	89,000	7,670	9,780	92,000	106,000
Chloride (gross weight)	705	863	42	47	570	994
Sulfate (gross weight)	29,100	14,000	3,080	1,620	25,700	13,500
Compounds, other (gross weight)	4,660	4,230	488	435	5,480	5,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for November 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Beginning inventory	Shipments	Ending inventory
2004:			
November	66,400	--	66,400
December	66,400	--	66,400
January-December	XX	31,500	XX
2005:			
January	66,400	20	66,300
February	66,300	738	65,600
March	65,600	--	65,600
April	65,600	220	65,400
May	65,400	301	65,100
June	65,100	2,960	62,100
July	62,100	2,600	59,500
August	59,500	3,680	55,800
September	55,800	3,710	52,100
October	52,100	3,010	49,100
November	49,100	2,830	46,300
January-November	XX	20,100	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Defense Logistics Agency.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
		October	Year to date		October	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	27,900	--	8,590	27,900	--	8,590
Ireland	17,700	4,270	13,000	17,700	4,270	13,000
Mexico	6,530	3,030	27,200	6,530	3,030	27,200
Peru	178,000	8,880	80,800	178,000	8,880	80,800
Other	877	559	2,290	877	559	2,290
Total	231,000	16,700	132,000	231,000	16,700	132,000
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	7,940	--	1	27,500	1,200	17,700
Brazil	26,400	5,320	38,800	26,400	5,320	38,900
Canada	501,000	21,900	365,000	501,000	21,900	365,000
China	35	--	--	16,500	474	1,350
Japan	--	--	--	690	--	--
Kazakhstan	2,310	--	--	2,310	--	--
Korea, Republic of	8,030	--	5,030	31,900	2,520	3,410
Mexico	123,000	14,900	120,000	123,000	14,900	120,000
Namibia	47,900	--	--	47,900	--	--
Peru	25,600	73	235	30,500	73	834
Other	204	--	57	3,970	--	282
Total	743,000	42,200	529,000	812,000	46,400	548,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	16,100	1,670	13,100	16,100	1,670	13,100
Grand total	990,000	60,600	674,000	1,060,000	64,800	692,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	49,700	4,800	53,300	49,700	4,800	53,300
China	207	20	106	207	20	106
Italy	13,400	--	13,300	13,400	--	13,300
Japan	1,060	119	946	1,060	119	946
Mexico	33,200	2,260	19,400	33,200	2,260	19,400
Netherlands	4,700	308	4,160	4,700	308	4,160
Other	796	175	886	796	175	886
Total	103,000	7,670	92,000	103,000	7,670	92,000
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	10,800	1,060	6,980	10,800	1,060	6,980
Sheets	2,500	553	2,720	2,500	553	2,720
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	24,800	2,340	19,600	24,800	2,340	19,600

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data for November 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.